McKean County Miner.

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McKean County Miner

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THE SEAT BALL.

CHAPTER II

"Did you ever dream that a woman could be so wicked?"

It was a question I had it in mind to ask Brigham half a dozen times. But there was no awkward thing to do, particularly when you have no occasion to meddle. It was a matter for Brigham and his conscience and Miss Percival further. And, too, perhaps Miss Percival was very well able to take care of her own affairs and needed no help from one who could only court the confidence that he was prompted by [illegible] and presumably doubtful interest [illegible] marked attention to a young lady [illegible] of beauty and [illegible] I admired in her acquaintance.

Still, I confess that the thing preyed in my mind, and as I got to know Brigham better and more intimately, I felt more [illegible] was frank and generous and chivalrous. His morals were always reproach. No appeal was made to him by the needy or the suffering that was not granted, oft-times often it left his purse empty or took him on many a weary tramp into the quarters where the destitute huddled.

I remember that one night while I sat by the window I heard him come up the street, and just in front of the house a woman accosted him. It was a man who was begging for assistance "for a sick wife and young [illegible]."

"Where are they that you should leave them at this hour of the night?" I heard Brigham ask.

"They are up in the boat right the foot of Wall street," responded the [illegible] "Some one just pulled in there to-night [illegible] came up from the [illegible] and I was to [illegible] up town [illegible] for a [illegible] but I could find nothing. [illegible] didn't have the heart to go back to the [illegible] with nothing, for there's been [illegible] thing to eat in the boat."

I have half a notion to go up with you, I heard Brigham say, for if what you say is true help must be [illegible] pretty badly, and if it isn't true I would be with the trouble going up there to the [illegible] you for the lie."

"Don't take my word for it mister, but give me some meal and taters an' meat to-day and I am long ways that I don't tell no lie."

"I'll do it," responded Brigham.

Well, then, I'll go along," I said, [illegible] sitting out of the window. "You would [illegible] to go up in that thieves' den [illegible] alone at this hour. How do you know this man is not trying to decoy you?"

I felt it in his honest countenance," responded my roommate with a laugh as he struck a match and held it up in the [illegible] of the typical Johnny [illegible] tenant of the Mississippi one of those uneasy vagrants who are always restlessly moving up and down the great stream, tramps upon the highway of a [illegible] commerce.

And nothing could persuade Brigham not to make the trip. He was set upon verifying the fellow's story, he said, for if a woman and child were sick and without food in a Christian land it was high time some one went to their rescue.

I must be that way myself some day," he said, and I should like to know I had not been wholly callous to such appeals in my days of good fortune."

So having offered to accompany him, and really fearing for his safety in a region where murder was done almost nightly, and where the assassin could find ready means to hide his crime and escape, I performed what I had to do and I would, and with a good deal of grumbling went with him and verified what the river rat had said.

But if I have digressed from the thread of my narrative it has only been to give you an insight into this man's character, so that you may know something of the conflicting emotions I felt when the wholly contradictory facts of his career were presented to me. For here was one who was prompted apparently by the kindliest sentiments, who was brave and generous and tender and trustful. If at times he was despondent and seemed melancholy it would have escaped observation, or at least not occasioned adverse [illegible] on my part, were it not for the enigmatical [illegible] of which he seemed [illegible] As time went on I grew strangely fond of him and he of me. As I look back upon those old days I can see how he clung to me as though he found a certain support in my stronger nature, as though he hoped that I might somehow stand between him and his fate.

One sunny afternoon in the late autumn we were strolling along the bluffs below the town, he lying out over the river and talking of the usual fight when the door to me and described the fate of the [illegible] robbers.

Brigham was carrying his hat in his hand and as the wind blew back his hair I noticed above his ear and well back from his forehead what looked like a deep scar.

What a deuce I asked, "an old wound—a relic of a boyhood fight or some innocent mischief or [illegible]?"

He put up his hand and ran his fingers along the white scar, and then said with a puzzled expression:

"I'd give my soul to know how that came there, but I don't. It makes me dizzy when I touch it, but it gives me no pain.

"Come, come, Brigham a man don't get a crease like that, long the side of his cranium without retarding a vivid recollection of the event.

But I have no recollection of it. If I had I should tell you. But that is of less importance than what I walked out here to say. I must jump right into the middle of it, too, or my courage will fail [illegible] Miss Emily Percival."

"If you had expected to surprise me, let me assure you you did nothing of the sort. I have seen"

"You suspected it?"

"Why no, I knew it."

"Well?"

"I have no advice to offer. Are congratulations in order or have you declared yourself to the young lady yet?"

"No, I have not. I believe she likes me. I will not say she loves me. But I have not felt at liberty to speak to her upon the subject. As you know, I am scarcely in a position to ask the daughter of a millionaire to be my wife."

"That is a weighty consideration," I replied steadily and with a purpose gradually taking shape in my mind.

"But I infer it would not be the most important one to Miss Percival or to her father. It would be very natural and highly proper, however, for me to know something of your past. Are you prepared to tell it?"

It was a cruel thing to say, but I did not mean it should be cruel, nor did it seem so at the time. But if this man could not tell me of the life he had led in the days and years before I knew him, how much less could he reveal it to the sweet, trustful woman he professed to love. What right had he to love such a woman if he did not dare confide in her? What thing could be more hateful or more barren and cheerless than a heart where some skeleton was in keeping?

But what seemed unkind in the repeating did not appear to either anger or hurt Brigham. The pessimism went out of his face as the sunshine is blotted by a passing cloud, and into his eyes there crept a far away look as of one who was looking beyond into the beyond. It was an eerie experience, and unattainable and [illegible] such as I fancy must sometimes come into the eyes of the dying who are reluctant to leave that which they have known for that they know not of. The lines about his mouth deepened, the pallor of face [illegible] more apparent, and dark circles crept up under his eyes. The man seemed to age ten years as I looked at him. Then he passed his hand over his head in the old, [illegible] way, and slowly there came from his lips these words, spoken in pitiable anguish

I have no past."

I grew suddenly impatient, and laying my hand rudely upon his shoulder spoke sharply. "My God man what do you mean by this imposition? What is there in your life you fear that men may find out? Not for my sake tell it but for the sake of the woman you profess to love."

I have told you the truth," he said slowly, and then with gathering force went on. "I have no past. There is a tradition of one who spurned the Saviour and who was [illegible] to go on forever. Perhaps I am he, but if so, that early sin is mercifully hidden from my knowledge. I live only in the present—to-day—this moment. It is with wonder that I see children about me in the streets, for I never was a child. The faces of the people I meet are strange to me, yet I never [illegible] Sometimes at night I look into the windows of homes as I pass and see pleasant groups gathered under the lamplight. But I never know such a home of my own. You will, do not, my kindred and your friends [illegible] I will some time return but I have neither kindred nor friends. You [illegible] me [illegible] about my past, my past, but I tell you I have no past. And then I feel that you doubt me, and that you suspect that perhaps I have committed some grave crime for which I fear the knowledge may come to me. You have read the story of the man without a country. I am a man without a past."

But surely

Say no [illegible] broke in a familiar voice and Jones hurried up the hill toward us. I've been looking for you all over town, and past cut Hannon, who said he saw you come out this way. You're wanted at the office instanter. The stockholders held a meeting last night and passed out Ned Adgate the expenses of the paper, rented the business manager for calling for assessments on the stock so often and ordered a general cutting down. I've just been let out and the 'old man' wants to see you for the same agreeable purpose, doubtless. It's getting cool up this way anyhow, and I'm off tonight for New Orleans. Ta, ta, I'll see you this evening."

Brigham and I walked back to the office in silence. I was too busy trying to reconcile my companion's strange confession with my reason to think much of the 'old man' or my fate at the office. I had no chick to care for and was heart free, so the possibility of discharge gave me no uneasiness. A bird of passage anyway, I had no care for the morrow. The old Bohemianism asserted itself at the very possibility of change. But it was different with Brigham. He was certainly not so well equipped as I was to look out for number one, and besides he was in love. The chances of his marrying Emily Percival might be infinitesimal, perhaps were—but I could understand what his emotions must be at the possibility of being driven away at this time. In fact I remembered how but that has nothing to do with this story.

When we reached the office the manager, editor was waiting for us, and he said with an emphasis which was perhaps assumed for the occasion

"Boys there has been a general order for the doubling up of work. Three men are to be let out, and the choice has fallen on Jones, Brigham and Hallam. I'm sorry, but you know how it is, and that will save me making a long story of it."

"But, Mr. Blake," I said, "you must take into account another thing. I am going to resign—intended to mention it to you last night, but got wind of this, and thought probably my resignation would be called for anyhow, so I waited. The fact is I am getting tired of Memphis, and had decided to go on down to Ward New Orleans, with the probability of visiting some friends in Vicksburg on the way. So as that will solve the question for one man, I want to ask you to back Brigham for my place. He likes the town, and can do the work better than I could."

"I will not take your place," said Brigham, rising. "I see your intent, Gilman, and I thank you for it, but I could not stay under those circumstances."

"But you must, my dear boy," I said. "The thing is no[illegible] resolve with me. Was decided on last night, I assure you. I want you to stay. All towns are alike to me and I am at home anywhere. Memphis has really become a great bore to me, and I long for the Bayou Cook oysters and the pompano of Farbacher's on Royal street."

He was stubborn, and for a long time held to his purpose to go too. It was like handling a shy horse with a hard mouth and a straight bit, but at last he consented to do as I had proposed.

That evening he called on Emily Percival, and came back in high spirits. I was in bed and asleep when he entered the room, but woke up when he lighted the lamp and sat down on the edge of the couch.

"I couldn't help waking you, Gilman," he said. "I wanted to tell you Emily loves me."

I took his hand. "I do congratulate you, old fellow, with all my heart. She is a woman who would make any man happy—a woman with a heart that wealth has never hardened. Life is all before you, and it will be your own fault if it disappoints you."

"Yes," he said joyously; "I have no past, but the future is mine. It is a glorious night, and I think I should smother if I staid cooped up here. I'll go down on the bluffs and take a little stroll before turning in."

When I awoke the next morning, with the sun streaming into my room, I found that Brigham had not yet come in. I strolled down to The Avalanche office, but he had not been there. He was not at dinner, nor was he seen during the day. My train was to go out at ten p. m., but up to the hour of its departure Brigham had not returned from his walk. Then I grew alarmed and decided to wait over a day. In the morning I called on Miss Percival to inquire if he had been summoned away suddenly. She had not seen him since Sunday night, she said, with evident disappointment. The police were set to work, the town was searched, telegrams were sent abroad—but all to no avail. I waited a week, but Jason Brigham had disappeared as mysteriously as though the great and sullen river which swept by the city's rampart of hills, had swallowed him. And that was what we sadly accepted as the explanation of his fate.

CHAPTER IV.

"See if you discover such a scar on the gentleman mentioned."

It was great again to see the spring of the north which May ushers in with violets and the return of the song birds, but the spring which comes creeping over the landscape of the south, the vernal season that follows the floods of February rains, which clothes the brown fields with green almost before one knows it, and brings swiftly in its train the summer supremacy of fertility. I was still in New Orleans, where I had come from Memphis, though my thoughts were turning northward again. I had been doing space work on The Picayune, where Jones held a desk in the city editors room. Some correspondence for northern papers had fallen to me and furnished a pretty decent sort of living [illegible]

Soon after leaving Memphis not a word had reached me of Jason Brigham. If the river had swallowed him, as we were [illegible] it had not given up its dead, or else had cast its prey upon some forsaken shore, perhaps in a treacherous eddy on the rim of some great desolate sandbar or among the twisted roots and broken tree trunks in a cove upon some wooded stretch where human eyes would never see it. The affairs had ceased to be a present memory to me. I thought with pity of Brigham, and of the [illegible] woman whose heart had been well nigh broken, but then there are so many tragedies in a newspaper man's life that his nature hardens insensibly, and he comes to pessimistically accept the cruel reprisals of fate with a fair share of stoicism.

From the effects left by Brigham I had the photograph of Emily Percival. She had told me to keep it as a memento when I offered to return it to her. There were few things beside that, and such as there were were left in The Avalanche office in the hope that he might yet return to claim them.

The winter had been a gay one in the Crescent City. The season at the French opera had never been better. The Mardi Gras a brilliant success, the town was full of gay life which renewed and reflected the Latin graces among our Puritanical institutions. In the merry round I had had my share and borne my part as well of the least of the work incidental to the daily grind of journalism. So I found myself upon the eve of starting north in anything but a pleasant frame of mind when the managing editor of The Picayune sent for me and said:

"I wish you would go up to Donaldsonville and do that Mme Armand murder case for us. You know I have no man here to send, and it is too big a thing for the multifarious local correspondent we have at that point to handle."

Of course I couldn't refuse—to have done so under the circumstances would have been unpardonable. But criminal affairs always nauseated me, and I hated the stuffy atmosphere of court rooms, where ignoramuses make pretense of knowledge to befuddle stupid jurors, and where the whole performance is a mockery of the solemnity of justice.

The case was famous or infamous enough, as such things go. Mme. Armand, who owned a plantation down on the Bayou Lafourche, had been murdered in her bed, presumably for money which she was popularly supposed to keep concealed in the house. The criminal had escaped detection for several months, and then had been apprehended while employed in a lumber camp where he was one of a gang of loggers. Just what evidence there was against him the officers of the state declined to make public, and the poor wretch, having no money to tempt a cormorant of the law to undertake his defense, and no friends to intercede for him, had been kept in jail to await trial at the spring term. It was understood in a general way that the evidence against the accused was inconvertible, and it was further understood that as he was a stranger and the law needed a victim, he was to be hanged in due season.

I went up to Donaldsonville the day before the one set for the trial, and landing at the miserable and forlorn place in the evening, hunted up the prosecuting attorney. That worthy was fully imbued with the heinousness of the crime, the necessity of some one's being punished for it, with the conviction that the prisoner was the guilty man, and with the assurance that he would be hanged. Further than that he had nothing to communicate. If I wanted information I must seek the counsel for the prisoner, the judge having recently appointed a member of the bar to defend him.

This advice was good, and I took it. I found the counsel for the defense a mild mannered young man who was evidently just breaking into the profession. But if his legal acumen was not overpowering he was to be commended for his modesty. He had not yet acquired the insolence or the vanity of the prosecuting attorney, and, what was in his favor, he took some interest in his unfortunate client.

"I do not believe him guilty," he said, "and yet I scarcely know why I believe in his innocence. The state, I understand, will bring witnesses to prove that he was seen in the vicinity of the murder, that he carries jewelry inconsistent with his occupation as a lumberman, and, what is more effective in the eyes of the judge, is their dignity of station, was marked by the small raised platform on which his chair was placed back of a long table. To be tried in such a place would give an unwonted horror to crime and I would [illegible] make the utterance of punishment an unusual and barbarous distortion of justice. I was still studying the faces of the audience when the case of the State versus Assal Berner was called, and the sheriff entered with his prisoner—the murderer of Mme Armand.

As he came up the aisle I looked at Jason Brigham! It was Jason Brigham who was led forward, handcuffed and disheveled, to take his seat in the prisoner's box. I could scarcely believe that sight was not playing some trick with my senses, that I was not the victim of a delusion and ludicrous hallucination. But the record [illegible] no mistake. Under the pitiful and drawn face, sallow from exposure in the miasmatic swamps, under the long dishevelled hair, the ragged, unkept beard of three months growth, the rough, unclothes the slothful, dogged air—beneath all these I saw the face and features and the unmistakable personality of Jason Brigham—the man without a past.

In the tumult of my feelings I was blind to everything else, no more saw or heard everything else, and, rising to my feet, went forward to meet him with hands extended and his name upon my lips.

"Jason—Jason Brigham!"

He saw me not mine, but the [illegible] me [illegible] it. His face took on a [illegible] expression of surprise—surprise not [illegible] seeing me in the [illegible] place one he had known, but astonishment that he should be mistaken for any one else than the same mold, there are sometimes such counterfeits that we can scarcely tell the spurious from the genuine."

"If this man is the Jason Brigham I knew in Memphis he has a scar upon the right side of his head above the ear and well forward toward the temple," I said, with a sudden inspiration, as the memory of that indelible mark flashed on my mind.

"Sheriff," said the Judge, leaning forward over his desk, "examine the prisoner's head and see if you discover such a scar as the gentleman mentions."

The sheriff in a very matter of fact way separated the prisoner's hair, which was long and unkempt. My heart seemed to stand still while he did so, but when he stood to one side and with his fingers spread apart silently directed attention to a long white scar at the place I had designated, I felt the blood rush to my brain in a flood that threatened to unseat my reason.

"Your identification seems complete, sir," said the judge, "but you will, of course, pardon me if I point out to you how impossible it would be for us to admit your unsupported evidence in this case. You are a stranger to us all, and though I do not believe such a thing for a moment, still in the eyes of the law you is not accustomed to the life he has lately been living. Yet he stubbornly refuses to say anything about himself beyond declaring his innocence. The inconsistency of his character and associations is so great that once demonstrated to a jury it will be ready to hang him without a qualm of conscience, if for nothing else, to show that it has the right to inflict the extreme penalty of the law."

"Perhaps he will weaken when he finds himself confronted by the stern necessity of making an effort to save his life."

"If he is guilty I might believe so, but I am convinced the man is innocent, but that for some unknown reason he would sooner die than talk."

"May he not be shielding some one else—a lawyer, perhaps?"

"I do not think so, for we have been unable to find any one who knows him. He seems to be a total stranger."

"What do his associates in the logging camp have to say?"

"That he walked into camp from the woods one day, applied for work, was given it and took his place. He was evidently the experienced as an axman, and was put on duty as an assistant to the cook."

"How long ago was this?"

"Only a month. It is supposed that he had been in hiding in the woods or perhaps concealed in the cabin of some friendly negro between the time of the commission of the crime and that day upon which he applied for work at the camp."

The next morning I accompanied Mr. Briggs, the counsel for the defendant, over to the court house—a dilapidated old frame building which had once been whitewashed, as an olive ever might conclude from the mottled appearance of its exterior. About the door was the customary crowd of idlers; inside, the benches full of gaping curiosity seekers. Within the bar a few men sat with their feet on a long table, copying the attitude of the judge, whose dignity of station was marked by the small raised platform on which his chair was placed back of a long table. To be tried in such a place would give an unwonted horror to crime and I would [illegible] make the infliction of punishment an unusual and barbarous distortion of justice. I was still studying the faces of the audience when the case of the State versus Assal Berner was called, and the sheriff entered with his prisoner—the murderer of Mme Armand.

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(Continued on fourth page.)

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Remember that for $1.50 we send the MINER and Philadelphia Weekly TIMES one year.

To Our Subscribers.

The special announcement which appeared in our columns some time since, announcing a special arrangement with Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., of Enosburgh Falls, Vt., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Disease," whereby our subscribers were enabled to secure a copy of that valuable work free by sending their address to B. J. Kendall Co. (and enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same), is renewed for a limited period. We trust all will avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this valuable work. To every lover of the horse it is indispensable, as it treats in a simple manner all the diseases which afflict this noble animal. Its phenomenal sale throughout the United States and Canada, makes it standard authority. *Mention this paper when sending for "Treatise."*

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FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

Harrisburg, August 10, 1891. The hot sultry cloudy weather is upon us with a vengeance and everybody is sweltering under the excessive heat. Even trees are dried up and stunted. The Hall departments are occupied by vacant chairs and no answer to roll call forms the response to questions which rise from the audience.

Only the simplest routine office work is done and CLERK HARRY has but few visitors of those who call are in search of him.

The visitors here for beautifying and improving the Capitol grounds under Mr. [illegible] Alvarde the Superintendent [illegible] Buildings and Grounds are [illegible]

[illegible] are [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and

The Potter County Journal

...report, Pa., August 14, 1891.

CLUBBING RATES.

... will send the MINER and any ... magazine mentioned below ... one year to any address, as follows:

... MINER and Philadelphia Week ... $1 50

The MINER and Albany Weekly ... $1 50

... MINER and Pittsburg Dispatch ...

The MINER and *Judge*, Library of ... monthly) for $1 60

The MINER and Harper's Weekly ... for $1 75

The MINER and New York *World* ... $1 50

The MINER and *Evangelican Mag* ... for $2 30

The MINER and American *Rural Home* for $2 00

The MINER and *Demorest Family* ... for $2 00

The MINER and *National Tribune* ... $1 00

The MINER and *Home Market Bul* ... for $1 50

The MINER and *Scribner's Magazine* ... 3 00

AL AND GENERAL

NOTICE.

S. P. Sheldon ... authorized agent for the city of Bradford to enter ... for advertising and job work and receive subscriptions for the MINER.

A. W. Mercur ... to be authorized agent for the MINER in Kane borough and the townships of Wetmore, Hamilton and Sergeant. He is authorized to receive subscriptions and contract for advertising and job work. L. BOLTER & SON, Publishers.

Delightfully cool evenings.

Labor day is drawing nigh.

The days grow dead rainy shorter.

Bradford races one week from next Tuesday.

Dr. Changes all changes this week. Call for details.

Ice cream cones are being brought into use.

A large foundry fire.

We have a section all to ourselves this week.

Everybody feeling the pinch of hard times.

Attention is called to the new advertisement of the Furniture and Carpet ... in this issue.

Prices are a little higher than the market says a philosopher. What know he of the matter? None.

The Boston Specialty Co. ... to a poor house Tuesday night but then the house was big enough at the company.

The foundation ... for the new addition to the ... is laid is almost completed. Brick work will be commenced Monday.

It is reported that the potato crop is cutting badly in this immediate vicinity and it is feared that the crop will again be a failure.

A number of the neighboring ... are being worked by burglars. Three places were entered at Ridgway one night last week.

The Young Ladies Industrial League will ... ice cream social at the old M. E. Parsonage next Wednesday evening August 19.

A very large congregation listened to Rev. J. J. Russell the Presiding Elder of the M. E. Church on Sunday even'g and long to the ... hour.

Work has been commenced on the ... addition of Mrs. E. A. Greenman's ... on the north side of Corydon ... recently destroyed by fire.

The young ladies of the M. E. Church ... will serve ice cream and peach ... on the beautiful grounds at ... Young's residence Tuesday, Aug. ... from three till eight o'clock.

Mahlaugh, Pfaff & Goodman promise to give the grandest presentation of Uncle Tom's Cabin ever witnessed in this place. They guarantee to refund the money to anyone not satisfied. Don't miss it.

Wednesday next will be a great day for excursions. Among others the one to Portage under the auspices of the Kane band will catch many from this place. Tickets are but $1 50 for the round trip.

Mahlaugh, Pfaff & Goodman's original New Orleans Uncle Tom's Cabin company is billed for the opera house for another crowding of next week. August 17th. Of course there will be a packed house.

The annual fair of the Potter County Agricultural society will be held on the 8th, 10th and 11th of September next. We are indebted to the officers of the society for a complimentary and hope to be able to attend at least a day or two.

During a thunder storm in Washington county a few days ago, the lightning struck a fence. A mare and her colt were standing near at the time, and the force of the concussion lifted the colt over the fence without injuring it in the least.

The Williamsport *Breakfast Table* of last Saturday contained a fine picture of our Statesmen Senator Hon. H. B. Packer of Williamsport, together with an excellent biographical sketch of that gentleman. Senator Packer is deserving of all the good that is said of him.

A pleasant surprise party was tendered to G. W. Garrett, and wife on Saturday evening last. About twenty five couples assembled at their home on King street and after an evening spent in social entertainment, an elegant lunch was served. A present noted to an occasion long to be remembered.

Postmaster F. S. Johnson and wife are bereaved by the death of their infant daughter Ida Cornelia, who died last evening at 7 o'clock, aged six months and five days. Funeral will take place from the family residence, Foreman street, on to-morrow afternoon, at four o'clock. Interment at Oak Hill.—Era, Aug. 11th.

Use this in your hat the New York State famous diarrhoea cure. Equal parts tincture of opium, tincture of cayenne, tincture of rhubarb, essence of peppermint and spirits of camphor, mix well. Dose fifteen to thirty drops in water, to be repeated if necessary to fifteen to twenty minutes. This has saved thousands of lives.

A Tournament and Parade ... will be held in Bradford, N. Y., on Thursday of next week. We are indebted to ... Memorial Board, Thos. J. Shultis, chairman of the Press Committee, for a pressing invitation to be present on that occasion and we only regret that circumstances which we cannot easily control prevents our acceptance.

—Judge Mayer, of Lock Haven, has given a legal opinion in which he decides that the West Branch of the Susquehanna is a public highway and that it would be an unlawful to obstruct it as it would to build a fence across a city street. Both Potato and Marvin creeks were declared public highways years ago.

Commissioner Biggins, who is a thoughty practical farmer, was under proper ... the impression at the court house ... and knowing him as well as we ... for some long continuity ... Mr. Biggins ... did only back down a ... about two of the supervisors of the ... but was a wise old bird and ... the ... of the commissioners.

The Baptist Debt Free Association ... Augie meeting ... August ... reliquat the Tuesday meeting ... another series and are engineered lastly ... I trespass that a full ... be in the house and settled up ... Everything to $3 10. ... to 25 ... get a ... all have ...

The first regular ... in the Baptist ... in this place since the repairs were completed were the Lord's ... day both were ... and attended. The walls and ceiling have been ... and ... tastefully ... and the church ... now ... to be ... ing appearance. ... deserved ... the decorating which ... has ... The church as an artist.

That season is passing ... rapidly is the ... harbinger. Feeling began early in the ... part ... a better arrangement of the ... ... is desired. While ... ... frequent, it has been just ... ... to keep the ... ... rain has never been ... long ... enough ... to damage the ... in the least. The greatest trouble has been to get among blackberries.

On August 16 and 17 the N. Y. and P. R. R. will sell excursion tickets to Rochester and return over the North Western Railroad to A. R. at the rate of $3 00 from Smethport. It is a good ... for ... August 20th. The ... of ... are requested to report at the East Smethport Station at 1 p. m. Tuesday, August 18. All citizens can have the benefit of the low railroad rates.

The fair on the lawn ... given by the Alter League of All Saints Chapel at the residence of Mrs. W. D. Chambers, at East Smethport on Thursday afternoon and evening of last week was a gratifying success. In the evening the attendance was very large. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated ... the long ... of Chinese lanterns adding much ... to the effect. The amount realized was $43 5... net.

It never ... as Smethport ... of ... where a few young girls ... a ... for the benefit of the ... They are ... the streets at night. They are ... very ... and ... ... the ... ... ladies are ... ... When the ... ...

H. W. RUBIN & CO.,

THE LEADING

-:-CLOTHIERS,-:-

SMETHPORT, PA

CUSTOM CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Fine suitings, Overcoatings, Pantaloonings and Vestings. The finest line in this section of the country

READY-MADE CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

A Well and Complete Line. Prices to correspond with the times and satisfaction guaranteed in every case.

A FULL LINE OF BOYS AND CHILDRENS CLOTHING

The latest novelties and most stylish

GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS,
MEN'S BOOTS AND SHOES,
HATS AND CAPS, &c., &c.

H. W. RUBIN & CO.

SPECHT & SASSE,

HOUSE FURNISHERS AND DECORATORS.

You need some furniture. We will buy yours, and let it once you look around but we say buy to be saved in buying. Our entire stock is new. We think we can save you these dollars. Our stock of

-:- FURNITURE. -:-

could not be better or fuller. All bought within a year there is in no west styles and lowest prices. All and see our Parlor Suit. Chamber Suits, sideboard, Book Case, Office Desk and in fact every article of furniture. Carpets, Oil Cloths, &c. We will show you a better stock of goods than cannot be beaten in this section.

Undertaking Goods a Specialty.

We also have a full line of Wall Paper and an honest competent paper hanger and decorator is hired.

SPECHT & SASSE, Smethport, Pa.

"WANT A WAGON?"

We have on hand a full stock of High grade, light draft Farm Wagons, which we are prepared to sell at bottom prices. Every wagon we sell is fully warranted by the manufacturers. If you want a wagon, you want the best for the money. We have it. Write us. Don't buy anything. We know it will please you. Send for our catalogue. It is free to every reader of this paper. Mention this paper when you write.

Address

"BUILT FOR BUSINESS"

FINE CANDIES

My present stock of fine confections surpasses any heretofore shown in this section and embraces all the finer as well as cheaper grades. Among the assortment may be mentioned

BON-BON BOXES, FINE CRYSTALIZED FRUITS,

French Mixed in 5-pound Boxes---Very Fine.

Chocolate Creams of all kinds etc. Also a complete stock of

Foreign and Domestic Fruits, Nuts, Etc.

Everything in the line of Gent's Domestic and Linen Handkerchiefs, Silk Hand kerchiefs too numerous to mention. Mufflers, Collars and Cuffs and the largest line of Neckwear to be found in the city. I am head quarters for

TOBACCO AND CIGARS

Cigar Holders, Cigar Cases, Cigarette Cases, Match Safes in fact everything to the Smokers line.

GOODS AND PRICES TO SUIT ALL.

GEO. A. BACKUS.

Opposite Court House, Main Street, Smethport.

Ely's Cream Balm for

CATARRH

THE POSITIVE CURE.

Price 50 Cts.

THE EDWARD

CENTER DRAFT MOWER

HAS POCKING CUTTER BAR. CHAIN DRIVE

CUTS SIX FEET.

To introduce these goods we will make Low Prices for Cash to Farmers where we have no agents. Send for descriptive Circular and prices to

WINCHESTER & PARTRIDGE MAN'F'C CO.,
WHITE WATER, WIS.

V. KLAPPENBACH,

MERCHANT TAILOR.

Cor. King and Fulton Sts., Smethport.

Keeps an assortment of English and French goods on hand from which to select. Suits will be made up in the latest and most approved styles, and entire

SATISFACTION :- GUARANTEED

THE SPENT BALL.

CHAPTER V.

I need not say how utterly confusing all this was. If there had been a possibility of my being mistaken in my man I should have seized it as an excuse to leave him to his fate. But the thing preyed upon my mind because I knew beyond all peradventure that this was Jason Brigham. His face had been stamped too clearly upon my recollection. I was too familiar with his personal characteristics. I knew too well all those little ironical lines which together go to form the individual personality of each one and how best there was the scar which could not be counterfeited. And what it was stretching credulity too far to believe, could be repeated by the merest chance coincidence in any other person in every personal detail. And yet what possible motive could he have for deny ing himself?

On the one hand confession that he was who I said he was meant escape from the gallows. His present course pretended leave. Was it the past which he had so persistently declined to recall that he feared to go further? Was it pride? Was it that he was ashamed to confess that he was caught? Was it that he was ashamed to confess that he was caught? Was it that he was ashamed to confess that he was caught